

Water & Sewer Guide 2019

V I L L A G E *of* W E S T E R N S P R I N G S

The Village of Western Springs has a responsibility to preserve the integrity of the water supply, maintain and replace the infrastructure that supplies it, and implement capital projects that will protect the Village's water in the long term. In December 2018, the water and sewer rate was increased from \$12.00 to \$14.00 per thousand gallons, with board approval of Ordinance 18-2936. The rate went into effect with consumption beginning in January 2019.

What does the water and sewer rate cover?

The rate:

- Covers the administration, production, and distribution of water; the maintenance, repair, and replacement of the water mains and sewer lines;
- Is set to meet but not exceed the long term operational and capital needs;
- Funds debt service related to water and sewer, and maintains reserve requirements.

Why was the rate increase required?

The increase will:

- Fund the required water and sewer infrastructure capital projects identified below;
- Cover the additional debt service associated with the IEPA loans issued to fund the capital improvements;
- Capture revenue lost to declining water consumption due to more efficient appliances and conservation efforts;
- Generate revenue that will fund a cash reserve for emergency repairs and fluctuations in cash flow.

What are the capital improvements and why are they necessary?

Western Springs has aging infrastructure, many portions of which are reaching the end of their useful life. The 2018 water and sewer rate would not generate enough revenue to support the necessary capital improvements to maintain a reliable water and sewer system.

Essential to preserving the integrity of the water supply is the construction of a third deep well to access the Iron-ton-Galesville aquifer that flows 1,500 feet below the surface. This third deep well will build redundancy into the water source system, so that the one remaining shallow well—containing water with high mineral content—can be capped off.

In addition to the new deep well, several other critical water infrastructure projects will be completed over the next year, and beyond. The standpipe behind Garden Market will be overhauled in 2019, including sandblasting, repainting, and updating safety features. Future projects include external and internal maintenance on the elevated tank in Spring Rock Park, and the ongoing replacement of water mains in the Village.

All generated revenue from the rate increase will be devoted to maintaining, operating, and improving the Village's water and sewer systems.

New Water and Sewer rate

\$14.00 per thousand gallons

FULL COST OF SERVICE INCLUDES:

OPERATING COSTS

CAPITAL FUNDING

DEBT SERVICE

FUND RESERVES

Capital Projects Planned Through 2021

WELL #5
\$3,048,000

- In order to provide residents with a plentiful supply of high quality water, it is vital to create a third deep well;
- The proposed site of Well #5 is Field Park;
- Once Well #5 is complete, the remaining shallow well (built in 1924 and containing water with high mineral content) will be capped off and taken out of service;
- The project will be funded by a low-interest IEPA loan, and is projected to begin in spring 2019.

**GARDEN MARKET
STANDPIPE**
\$932,000

- The maintenance schedule of the water standpipe and elevated tank requires painting on a 15-20 year cycle. This includes sandblasting, repainting, and updating safety features;
- The project will be funded by a low-interest IEPA loan, and is projected to begin in spring 2019.

**CLAUSEN AVENUE
OGDEN TO 41ST**
\$514,000

- Total reconstruction from Ogden Avenue to 41st Street, including replacement of 4-inch water mains;
- The water main replacement project will be funded by a low-interest IEPA loan, and is projected to begin in summer 2019.

**CLAUSEN AVENUE
41ST TO HILLGROVE**
\$527,000

- Total reconstruction from 41st Street to Hillgrove, including replacement of 4-inch water mains;
- The water main replacement project will be funded by a low-interest IEPA loan, and is projected to begin in summer 2020.

**SPRING ROCK PARK
ELEVATED TANK**
\$1,390,000

- The maintenance schedule of the water standpipe and the elevated tank requires painting on a 15-20 year cycle. This includes sandblasting, repainting, and updating safety features;
- The project will be funded by a low-interest IEPA loan, and is projected to begin in 2020.

**ROSE & GROVE
AVENUES**
\$431,000

- Total reconstruction;
- The water component of the project will be funded by a low-interest IEPA loan, and is projected to begin in 2021.

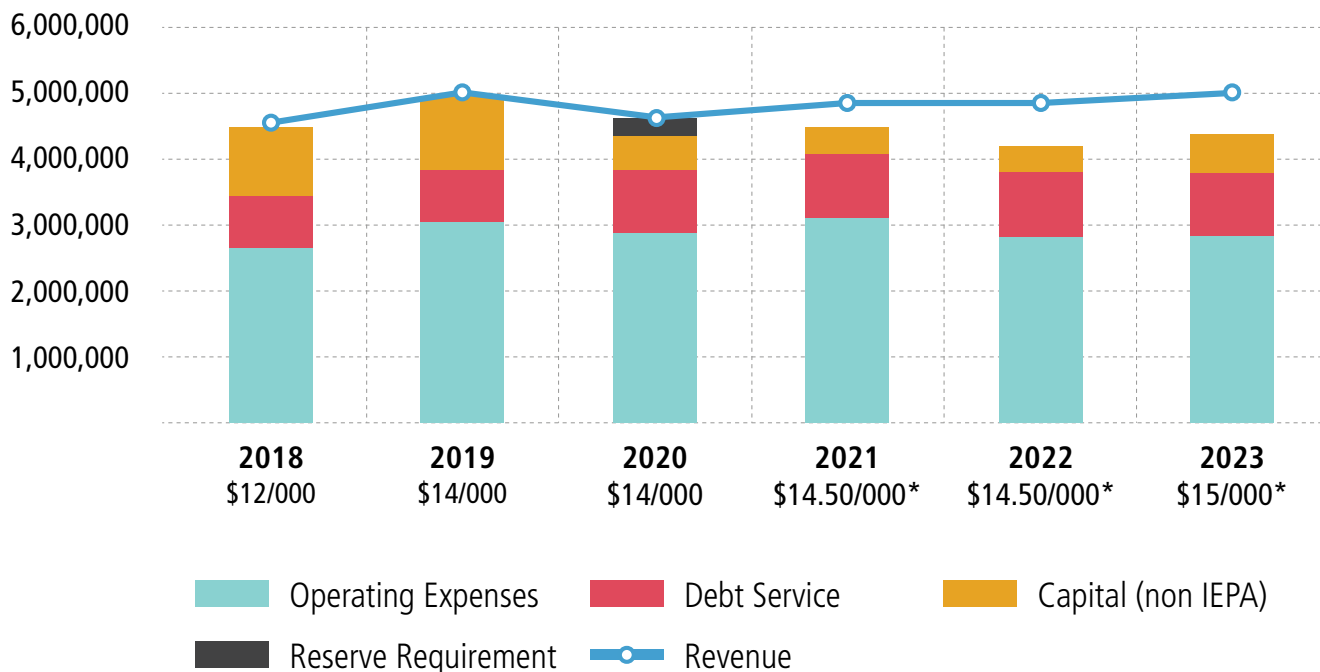
**ROADWAY
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS**

- Total reconstruction of various streets;
- The water and sewer components of these projects will be funded by the capital maintenance fee.

**RIDGEWOOD OAKS
DETENTION BASIN**

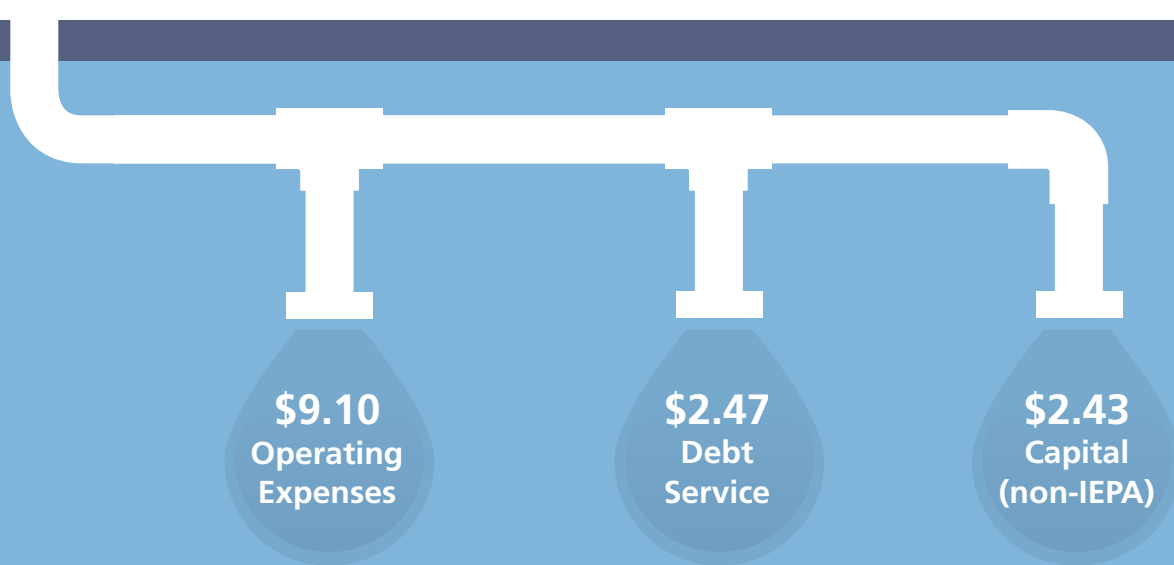
- Construction of a detention pond to mitigate flooding;
- The project will be funded by a Special Service Area and is scheduled to begin in spring/summer 2019.

Projected Funding Sources vs Expenditures



* Proposed rate increase – subject to review

The graph shows that expenditures and debt service will remain stable over the next five years, while capital will fluctuate based on the proposed non-IEPA funded projects. If the water and sewer rate increase provides the estimated revenue flow as presented, it will give the Village the opportunity to invest in additional capital projects without relying on debt. While an additional 50 cent rate increase is proposed in 2021, and again in 2023, the rate will be reviewed at those times to determine its adequacy.



The \$14.00 per Thousand Gallons Allocation for 2019

Understanding the Water & Sewer Bill

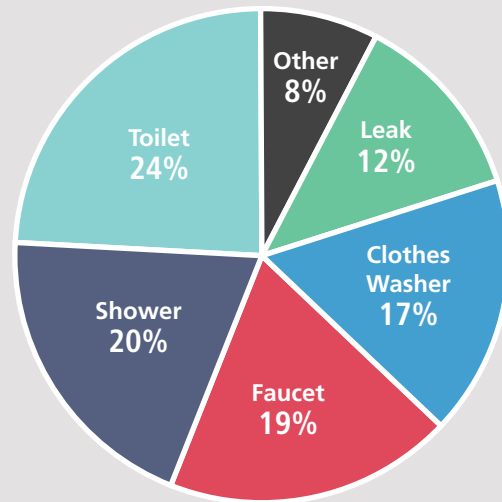
The Village uses a uniform rate that has a constant unit price for all metered units of water. The uniform rate is a combined water and sewer rate, which provides the Village with a stable flow of revenue, and provides the customer the ability to manage their bills based on usage/conservation.

The Village bills its residents for usage every two months. For billing purposes, the Village is split into two sections—north and south—with 47th Street as the dividing line. Bi-monthly bills are based on consumption that is registered on the meter and transmitted on a touchpad located outside the residence.

Quick Facts:

- ❑ Consumption is based on 1000-gallon units;
- ❑ The rate of \$14.00 per thousand gallons (1.4¢/gallon) is a combined water and sewer rate;
- ❑ All generated revenue goes into the water and sewer fund, and is devoted solely to maintaining, operating, and improving the Village's water and sewer systems;
- ❑ A minimum bill of four thousand gallons (\$56.00) per bi-monthly billing period is charged to all accounts that use between zero to four thousand gallons per billing period. The minimum is assessed for the purpose of recovering the fixed costs of the water and sewer system;
- ❑ Charges include a capital maintenance fee of \$7.50 per billing cycle. This fee is directed to fund the water and sewer components of the roadway reconstruction program. Currently, monies are being accumulated to fund roadway projects in years 2021 and beyond;

The chart on the following page provides a rate comparison with our neighboring communities.



The average American family uses more than 300 gallons of water per day at home. Roughly 70 percent of this use occurs indoors.

Nationally, outdoor water use accounts for 30 percent of household use, yet can be much higher in drier parts of the country, and in more water-intensive landscapes.

For more information visit: www.waterrf.org



THE
Water
Research
FOUNDATION

Water & Sewer Rate Comparison

COMMUNITY	WATER AND SEWER RATE PER 1000 GALLONS	ADDITIONAL FEES		MINIMUM BILL	SAMPLE BILL 9,000 GALLONS MONTHLY BILL
		METER SIZE FEE (EXAMPLE 5/8 INCH) ANNUALLY	CAPITAL SERVICE CHARGE FEE ANNUALLY		
CHICAGO	\$9.91				\$89.19
DOWNERS GROVE	\$8.11	\$75.54	\$137.16	\$24.02	\$97.01
WESTCHESTER	\$11.03		\$120.00	N/A	\$109.27
HINSDALE	\$12.68			\$27.52	\$114.12
VILLA PARK	\$12.58	\$56.88	\$37.92		\$121.12
WESTERN SPRINGS	\$14.00		\$45.00	\$63.50	\$129.75
RIVER FOREST	\$14.73			\$38.58	\$132.59
LA GRANGE	\$14.96			\$64.56	\$134.64
CLARENDON HILLS	\$13.97		\$120.00	\$10.00	\$135.73
NORTH RIVERSIDE	\$13.60		\$180.00	\$84.40	\$137.40
INDIAN HEAD PARK	\$11.60		\$528.00	\$134.40	\$148.40
RIVERSIDE	\$15.19		\$180.00	\$105.94	\$151.68
LA GRANGE PARK	\$17.05				\$153.41
GLEN ELLYN	\$17.11		\$36.00	\$22.86	\$156.99
ELMHURST	\$17.54	\$183.72			\$173.18

Western Springs is the only community from the above list that accesses the Ironton-Galesville aquifer, and remains committed to this process. The cost of connecting to Lake Michigan water is prohibitive, as forging a connection between the Village and the nearest authorized reseller (McCook or Countryside) would be a major undertaking. Furthermore, the Village has committed to sourcing its own water, and to that end, has invested significantly in the supporting infrastructure that allows for greater control over the sourcing, treatment, distribution, and water quality.

9,000 gallon usage
 Water/sewer bill at \$12.00
 per thousand gallons
\$108.00 plus \$2.50* or
 \$3.56 per day
 A shower at 20% = 71¢

9,000 gallon usage
 Water/sewer bill at \$14.00
 per thousand gallons
\$126.00 plus \$3.75* or
 \$4.19 per day
 A shower at 20% = 84¢

* Capital maintenance fee

The Water & Sewer Rate Increase Impact on Household Budget



Get Involved!

As part of ongoing efforts to comply with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) regulations and standards, the Water Department continues to solicit responses for the Lead and Copper Service Line Survey and the Cross-Connection Control Program Survey. Further information on both surveys is available below:



Lead and Copper Service Line Survey

In January 2017, the IEPA amended the Illinois Environmental Protection Act to include a mandate for operators of community water systems in the State of Illinois to create a comprehensive service line inventory. This inventory must account for the total number of service lines in the system, the number of lead service lines in the system, and the number of lead service lines replaced the previous year. Moving forward, this inventory must be updated and submitted on or before April 15th of each year.

In an effort to expedite the inventory process, the Village of Western Springs encourages residents to fill out the Lead and Copper Service Line Survey online form at www.wsprings.com/leadandcopper. The web form is designed for those residents that are already aware of the material composition of their service line, as it contains little to no instruction. If you need help identifying your service line composition, please contact the Village Water Department at 708-246-1800 ext. 214.

Cross-Connection Control Program

The Village of Western Springs' Cross-Connection Control Program is designed to safeguard public health by protecting the municipal drinking water supply. The IEPA requires every water supply provider to develop and implement a backflow prevention control program. The program mandates surveying all residential water customers every two years to identify connections that could allow contaminants to accidentally flow back into the drinking water from sources such as fire protection sprinkler systems, boilers, lawn sprinklers, and swimming pools.

For more information regarding the cross-connection control program, and to complete the online form, please visit www.wsprings.com/cccp. If you already have access to your backflow prevention test information for 2019, you can email a copy to eduffy@wsprings.com, mail a copy to 740 Hillgrove Ave, Western Springs, IL 60558, or drop a copy off at Village Hall.

FAQs

1. Why is the water/sewer rate increase necessary?

The rate increase is necessary to fund capital projects planned for the next several years and the additional maintenance of the water plant. A number of these projects will be funded by low-interest IEPA loans, and the funds generated will help pay for the additional debt.

2. How does the water/sewer rate in Western Springs compare with neighboring communities?

Based on a recent survey, the rate in Western Springs is comparable, and in some instances, significantly lower than surrounding communities. The enclosed chart provides more detail.

3. What is the “Capital Maintenance Fee” that is on my bill?

The Capital Maintenance Fee is a bi-monthly fixed fee used to pay for the water and sewer component of the roadway improvements which are funded by roadway referendum bonds. The plan is to do a complete rehabilitation in the long term.

4. What is the impact of the increase of my bill?

Assuming the average monthly consumption is approximately 9,000 gallons, the daily additional cost will be about 60 cents.

5. Why does Western Springs use well-sourced water instead of Lake Michigan water?

A recommitment to well water was made over a decade ago when the Village decided to upgrade the water plant to a reverse osmosis operation. Village officials decided against relying on Lake Michigan water via authorized resellers, in order to retain control over sourcing, treatment, distribution, and quality.

6. Can the Village switch to Lake Michigan water?

Converting the Village’s water/sewer infrastructure to Lake Michigan water is cost prohibitive. The connection to an authorized reseller would require substantial financial outlay and system disruption. The Village made a significant investment in the reverse osmosis process, which was meant to serve its long-term needs.

7. When will the water/sewer rate increase again?

The water/sewer rate is evaluated each year during the budget cycle. It is projected that there may be an additional increase in 2021. This projection will be reviewed at that time, to determine its adequacy.

8. How old is our infrastructure?

The Village began producing its own water in 1892. In 1924 and 1926 the Village drilled two shallow wells, and then in 1930, built the original lime softening treatment plant. By 1966, the Village had constructed two additional deep wells and expanded the treatment plant. In 2008, the Village completed a ten-year study looking at the development of the water treatment system and decided to transition from a lime softening treatment plant to a low-pressure reverse osmosis treatment plant. The retrofit of the existing water treatment plant was completed in 2013.

9. What about seniors on a fixed income who cannot afford the increase?

The Village offers a senior discounted rate of \$10.00 per thousand gallons. Eligibility is based on an income and age requirement, which follows the Cook County senior freeze exemption criteria. For more information, call the water billing department at 708-246-1800 ext. 126.

TOWER TOPICS

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Ambulance/Fire/Police emergency 9-1-1
Building Department 708-246-1800 Ext. 180
Fire non-emergency 708-246-1182
Police non-emergency 708-246-8540
Public Works Department 708-246-1800 Ext. 200
Recreation Department 708-246-9070
Refuse/Recycling (Republic/Allied Waste).... 708-345-7050
Village Hall 708-246-1800

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Paying Your Water Bill

Automatic payment (EFT) of water / sewer bills is available. EFT payments for water bills are electronically withdrawn from the account of your choice on the due date - no postage, no check writing, no penalties.

If you are interested in automatic payment for your water bills, complete the Direct Payment Application on the Village website and return it to Village Hall:

Village of Western Springs
Attn: Water Billing
740 Hillgrove Ave.
Western Springs, IL 60558



COMING SOON in 2019: Online bill payment